

VORKUTA MINE EXPLOSION

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1. On 25 February 1964 the Soviet domestic radio service broadcast the text of a telegram sent by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers to the town of Vorkuta expressing condolences on the occasion of a mine disaster caused by a methane gas explosion which apparently claimed the lives of an unspecified number of people. The same text was published on the front page of the newspaper, Pravda, on 25 February 1964. The date of the disaster was not given, but it is presumed to have occurred shortly before the date of the announcement.

2. There is no geophysical data or any other evidence that a large scale explosion took place in the Vorkuta area. We can not confirm the mine disaster but we have no reason to assume that anything took place other than a mine explosion. It should be noted that an explosion could be large enough to cause a disaster of major proportions and yet be below the detection threshold

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Approved For Release 2005/03/24 : CIA-RDP82R00025R000400070005-0

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